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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/010,215 12/04/2001 Lucas Knopp 214321 7882

23460 7590 01/30/2003

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EXAMINER

HENCE, ANDREA A

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2854

DATE MAILED: 01/30/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/010,215

Applicant(s)

KNOPP ET AL.

Examiner

Andrea A. Hence

Art Unit

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-- Th MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the corresponding address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 December 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

2. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Beaumont (GB 2,341,850).

Referring to claim 1, Beaumont teaches a rotary printing machine comprising a pair of sheet holding and transfer systems disposed in side-by-side relation for transferring sheets in the printing machine (Figure 1), said sheet holding and transfer systems defining a sheet transfer area (25) therebetween, a sheet guide apparatus (15) disposed underneath said transfer area, said sheet guide apparatus including a sheet guide which defines a guide surface (16) for guiding movement of sheets adjacent said transfer area, and a separate pneumatic system operable for blowing an air stream in the direction of said transfer area to facilitate reliable transfer of sheets between said sheet holding and transfer systems (See Page 6, lines 27-30).

Referring to claim 2, Beaumont teaches the rotary printing machine in which said transfer area is defined by a tangent point between said sheet holding and transfer systems (See Figure 2).

Referring to claim 3, Beaumont teaches the printing machine which said sheet holding and

transfer systems comprise a pair of sheet carrying cylinders ^(4,5) ~~(6)~~.

Referring to claim 4, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said sheet transfer and holding systems comprise one sheet-carrying cylinder (5) and a circulating conveyor system (14).

Referring to claim 5, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said pneumatic system is located adjacent a sheet outlet defined by said sheet holding and transfer systems from which sheets are directed (See Figure 1, area left of (15)).

Referring to claim 6, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said pneumatic system is located adjacent a sheet inlet defined by said sheet holding and transfer systems into which sheets are directed (See Figure 1, area right of (15)).

Referring to claim 7, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said pneumatic system comprises a plurality of controllable fans (13) for directing a low pressure high, volume air flow.

Referring to claim 8, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said pneumatic system is mounted on said sheet guide (See page 7, lines 5-10).

Referring to claim 9, Beaumont teaches the printing machine in which said sheet guide (15) includes a first flow duct (17) communicating with openings (page 7, lines 9-10) in said guide surface(16), a further pneumatic system (23) communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct (24)communicating with said separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of the transfer area (See Figure 4).

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Referring to claim 10, Beaumont teaches the printing machine of claim 5 in which said sheet guide (15) includes a first flow duct (17) communicating with openings (page 7, lines 9-10) in said guide surface (16), a further pneumatic system (23) communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct (24) communicating with said separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of said sheet outlet (See Page 4, lines 12-15)

Referring to claim 11, Beaumont teaches the printing machine of claim 6 in which said sheet guide includes a first flow duct (17) communicating with openings (page 7, lines 9-10) in said guide surface (16), a further pneumatic system (23) communicating with said first flow duct, and a second flow duct (24) communicating with said separate pneumatic system and having at least one discharge outlet opening aimed in the direction of said sheet inlet (See Page 4, lines 15-20).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Andrea A. Hence whose telephone number is (703) 305-8427. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday- Friday; 8:30a-5:30p.

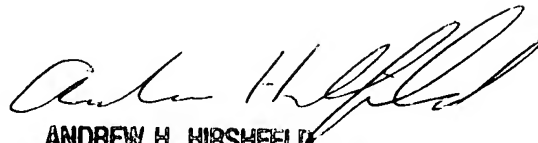
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Hirshfeld can be reached on (703) 305-6619. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-7722 for regular communications and (703) 308-7722 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

Andrea A. Hence

AAH
January 21, 2003


ANDREW H. HIRSHFELD
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2800